

REPORT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONCERNING APPLICANT

Under section 60835 of title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, the Bureau of State Audits is responsible for collecting information concerning applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is needed by the Applicant Review Panel to perform its responsibilities. This is a report by Bureau staff in compliance with that responsibility.

Name of Applicant: Richard Thompson Ford.

Information: Research conducted by Bureau staff revealed that Applicant has written many published articles and books. His subject matter is usually race relations and politics. Applicant wrote the book *The Race Card*, contributed to the book *Critical Race Theory*, contributed to the book *Best African American Essays*, and was the co-editor of the Law and Geographies Reader and Local Government Law textbook. His writings have given him a significant degree of notoriety, and in conjunction with notoriety, he has been interviewed about his writings and the general subject of race and politics in the print and electronic media, including an interview on *The Colbert Report*.

Staff research discovered that Applicant's membership with the California State Bar currently is inactive, although it is eligible to become active.

In the "Activities" section of his supplemental application, Applicant stated that in the late 1990's he served as a Commissioner for the San Francisco Housing Authority. Staff asked Applicant how he obtained that position. Applicant responded that he was nominated for the position by then-Mayor of San Francisco Willie Brown.

When staff reviewed Applicant's application materials with him, staff discovered that Applicant had not included information about his in-laws in the "Family Information" section of his supplemental application. Staff asked Applicant to submit an amendment to his application to provide the information, and he promptly did that.

In the "Financial Contributions" section of his supplemental application, Applicant reported that he contributed \$250 to BUILD. According to its website, BUILD has as its mission "to provide real-world entrepreneurial experience that empowers youth from under-resourced communities to excel in education, lead in their communities, and succeed professionally." Applicant also reported contributing \$2,500 to the San Francisco School. According to its website, the San Francisco School "is an independent, coeducational day school . . . "with a multicultural enrollment of 270 students."

Staff contacted Professor Deborah Rhode, the author of one of Applicant's letters of recommendation, to confirm the information provided in the letter and receive any additional information that may be relevant. Professor Rhode confirmed the information in the letter and added that Applicant is a "fair minded person who sees both sides of an issue." She stated that

“there is value in having someone with independence” who is scholarly and has the commitment for this position. She added that Applicant has great integrity, thoughtfulness, and the time necessary to be a dedicated commissioner.

Recommendation: None.

Name and Title of Person Submitting Report: Steven Benito Russo, Chief of Investigations

Report Date: September 18, 2010